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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9722  
INFO RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 2570  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4237  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 4381  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8700  
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 2666  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RHMFISS/COMUSKOREA CC SEOUL KOR  
RUACAAA/COMUSKOREA INTEL SEOUL KOR  
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 000917

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/02/2018

TAGS: [KS](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: ROK CONSIDERING PUBLIC STATEMENT ON FLAWED BURMESE  
REFERENDUM

REF: A. STATE 45471

[1](#)B. SEOUL 560

Classified By: A/POL Brian McFeeters. Reasons 1.4(b/d)

[1](#)1. (C) In a May 2 meeting with poloff, Han Woo-young, MOFAT Deputy Director for Southeast Asian Affairs, said that the ROKG was currently discussing the possibility of making a public statement about the flawed nature of the May 10 referendum in Burma. There was "favorable discussion" on the topic, but as of yet no decision had been made.

[1](#)2. (C) Han, however, said that the ROKG wanted to avoid the image that the U.S. was trying to micromanage the ROKG's position on Burma, and stated that it was necessary to "differentiate on pushing too far" on the issue. Han then reiterated that the ROKG was favorably considering the possibility of a public statement on the Burma referendum, without mentioning a date.

VERSHBOW